

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following comments. The preceding amendments and the following remarks are submitted in response to the Office Action mailed April 17, 2003. A Petition for a One-Month Extension of Time is filed herewith requesting that the time for responding to the Office Action, originally set to expire on July 17, 2003, be extended for one (1) month to now expire on August 17, 2003.

In this Amendment, claims 28 and 35 have been amended, claims 36-41 have been added, and claim 30 has been cancelled. Therefore, claims 28-29 and 31-41 remain pending. No new matter has been added.

As an initial matter, Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for the time taken to conduct the telephone interview on August 12, 2003 with Applicants representatives. During the interview, the Applicants representatives discussed the claims, and the present amendments to the claims, with the Examiner. International Publication Number WO 91/00051 to De Toledo (hereinafter "De Toledo") was also discussed. The Examiner indicated agreement that the present claims define over De Toledo.

In the Office Action, claims 28-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by International Publication Number WO 91/00051 to De Toledo (hereinafter "De Toledo"). However, De Toledo does not teach or suggest a "plastic jacket disposed about the distal region of the core and the radiopaque coil, the plastic jacket being in intimate contact with the proximal portion of the distal region of the core along a length thereof", as recited in independent claim 28. Therefore, independent claim 28, and dependent claims 29 and 31-32 are allowable over De Toledo. Dependent claim 30 has been cancelled.

Additionally, claims 33-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over De Toledo in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,108,368 to Hammerslag et al., (hereinafter "Hammerslag et al."). However, claims 33 and 34 are dependent upon independent claim 28, and Hammerslag et al. does not cure the deficiency of De Toledo as discussed above relating to claim 28. For example, Hammerslag et al., taken alone or in combination with De Toledo, does not teach or suggest a "plastic jacket disposed about the distal region of the core and the radiopaque coil, the plastic jacket being in intimate contact with the proximal portion of the distal region of the core along a length thereof", as recited in independent claim 28.

Therefore, dependent claims 33 and 34, as well as independent claim 28, are allowable over both De Toledo and Hammerslag et al., taken alone or in combination.

Furthermore, in the Office Action, claim 35 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over De Toledo in view of Hammerslag et al.. However, neither De Toledo nor Hammerslag et al., taken alone, or in combination, teach or suggest a "plastic jacket having a smooth outer surface disposed about the proximal portion of the distal region of the core, the radiopaque coil, and the junction, the plastic jacket being in intimate contact with the radiopaque coil and the proximal portion of the distal region of the core" as recited in independent claim 35. Claim 35 was amended merely to clarify that the distal portion and proximal portion recited in the claim are portions of the distal region of the core – a property already present in the claim as originally presented. Therefore, independent claim 35 is allowable over both De Toledo and Hammerslag et al., taken alone or in combination.

Claims 36 through 41 have been added, and are also thought to be allowable over the cited art of record.

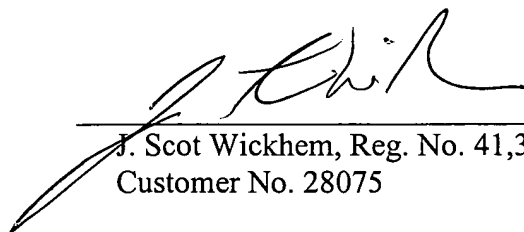
In view of the foregoing, pending claims 28-29, and 31-41 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and indication of allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner would like to discuss the application or its examination in any way, please call the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

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By his Attorney,

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